IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as set out in the following claim listing:

1. (Currently Amended) A data processing apparatus comprising:

a combining device for combining main data including at least one of audio data and image data exhibiting a reference frame rate FR_r, with associated information, said associated information including ~~a~~ set frame rate data (FR_s) ~~that is n times the reference frame rate~~ representing a reproduction speed for said main data, $FR_s=nFR_r$ (n is an integer or a fraction), ~~and~~ said associated information ~~indicating~~ selectively including limitation information for limiting the reproduction speed of said main data to a predetermined range of reproduction speeds having a maximum speed less than a fast reproduction speed selectable by a user, and said associated information further including recommended data representing a recommended reproduction speed at which a reproduction device is set to reproduce a predetermined content of said main data, said recommended reproduction speed being within said predetermined range, said user-selectable ~~fast~~ reproduction speed being a fast speed produced by skipping selected frames of said main data as a function of FR_s, and said user-selectable reproduction speed being a slow speed produced by repeating selected frames of said main data as a function of FR_s, said maximum speed of said predetermined range being set for ~~a~~ said predetermined content of said main data and not capable of being overridden by the user-selectable fast reproduction speed, thereby inhibiting said user from exceeding said maximum speed when reproducing the predetermined content of said main data; and

a transmitting device for transmitting said main data combined with at least said set frame rate data FR_s of said associated information.

2-3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The data processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said limitation information additionally includes information for limiting a display size of an image when reproducing said predetermined content of the main data.

5. (Previously Presented) The data processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said limitation information includes information for maintaining quality of said predetermined content of the main data when reproducing the main data.

6. (Original) The data processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said transmitting device transmits said main data combined with said associated information through a communication path.

7. (Original) The data processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said transmitting device allows recording said main data combined with said associated information on recording medium.

8. (Original) The data processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an adjuster for adjusting a frame rate of said main data.

9. (Original) The data processing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said adjuster adjusts the frame rate of said main data transmitted from said transmitting device by storing said main data temporarily on a storage medium and controlling read-out of said main data from said storage medium according to a bandwidth of said communication path referring to said limitation information.

10. (Currently Amended) A data processing method comprising the steps of:

combining main data including at least one of audio data and image data exhibiting a reference frame rate FR_r, with associated information, said associated information including ~~a~~ set frame rate data (FR_s) ~~that is n times the reference frame rate~~ representing a reproduction speed for said main data, $FR_s=nFR_r$ (n is an integer or a fraction), ~~and~~ said associated information ~~indicating~~ selectively including limitation information for limiting the reproduction speed of predetermined content of said main data to a predetermined range of reproduction speed having a maximum speed less than a fast reproduction speed selectable by a user, and said associated information further including recommended data representing a recommended reproduction speed at which a reproduction device is set to reproduce a predetermined content of said main data, said recommended reproduction speed being within said predetermined range, said user-selectable ~~fast~~ reproduction speed being a fast speed produced by skipping selected frames of said main data as a function of FR_s, and said user-selectable reproduction speed being a slow speed produced by repeating selected frames of said main data as a function of FR_s, said maximum speed being set for ~~a~~ said predetermined content of said main data and not being capable of being overridden by the user-selectable fast reproduction speed, thereby inhibiting said user from exceeding said maximum speed when reproducing the predetermined content of said main data; and

transmitting said main data combined with at least said set frame rate data FR_s of said associated information.

11-12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) The data processing method according to claim 10, wherein said

limitation information additionally includes information for limiting a display size of an image when reproducing said predetermined content of the main data.

14. (Previously Presented) The data processing method according to claim 10, wherein said limitation information includes information for maintaining quality of said main data when reproducing said predetermined content of the main data.

15. (Original) The data processing method according to claim 10, wherein, in said step of transmitting said main data, said main data combined with said associated information is transmitted through a communication path.

16. (Original) The data processing method according to claim 10, wherein, in said step of transmitting said main data, said main data combined with said associated information is recorded on recording medium.

17. (Original) The data processing method according to claim 10 further comprising the step of adjusting a frame rate of said main data.

18. (Original) The data processing method according to claim 17, wherein, in said step of adjusting said frame rate, the frame rate of said main data transmitted in said step of transmitting said main data is adjusted by storing said main data temporarily on a storage medium and controlling read-out of said main data from said storage medium according to a bandwidth of said communication path referring to said limitation information

19. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable recording medium having stored thereon a program for allowing a computer to perform a data processing method comprising the steps of:

combining main data including at least one of audio data and image data exhibiting a reference frame rate FR_r, with associated information, said associated information including ~~a~~ set frame rate data (FR_s) ~~that is n times the reference frame rate~~ representing a reproduction speed for said main data, $FR_s=nFR_r$ (n is an integer or a fraction), ~~and~~ said associated information ~~indicating~~ selectively including limitation information for limiting the reproduction speed of said main data to a predetermined range of reproduction speed having a maximum speed less than a fast reproduction speed selectable by a user, and said associated information further including recommended data representing a recommended reproduction speed at which a reproduction device is set to reproduce a predetermined content of said main data, said recommended reproduction speed being within said predetermined range, said user-selectable ~~fast~~ reproduction speed being a fast speed produced by skipping selected frames of said main data as a function of FR_s, and said user-selectable reproduction speed being a slow speed produced by repeating selected frames of said main data as a function of FR_s, said maximum speed being set for ~~a~~ said predetermined content of said main data and not capable of being overridden by the user-selectable fast reproduction speed, thereby inhibiting said user from exceeding said maximum speed when reproducing the predetermined content of said main data; and

transmitting said main data combined with at least said set frame rate data FR_s of said associated information.

20. (Currently Amended) A data processing apparatus comprising:

a determining device for determining whether or not indication information indicates limitation information for limiting reproduction speed of main data to a predetermined range of

reproduction speeds having a maximum speed less than a fast reproduction speed selectable by a user, said main data including image data exhibiting a reference frame rate FR_r, said indication information including ~~a~~ set frame rate data (FR_s) ~~that is n times the reference frame rate~~ representing a reproduction speed for said main data, $FR_s=nFR_r$ (n is an integer or a fraction), said user-selectable ~~fast~~ reproduction speed being a fast speed produced by skipping selected frames of said main data as a function of FR_s, and said user-selectable reproduction speed being a slow speed produced by repeating selected frames of said main data as a function of FRs, said maximum speed of said predetermined range being set for a predetermined content of said main data and not capable of being overridden by the user-selectable fast reproduction speed, thereby inhibiting said user from exceeding said maximum speed when reproducing the predetermined content of said main data, said main data including at least one of audio data and image data; and

a combining device for combining said main data with associated information indicating said limitation information when said determining device determines that said indication information indicates said limitation information.

21-22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously Presented) The data processing apparatus according to claim 20, wherein said limitation information includes information for limiting a display size of an image when reproducing said predetermined content of the main data.

24. (Previously Presented) The data processing apparatus according to claim 20, wherein said limitation information includes information for maintaining quality of said main data when reproducing said predetermined content of the main data.

25. (Currently Amended) A data processing method comprising the steps of:

determining whether or not indication information indicates limitation information for limiting reproduction speed of main data to a predetermined range of reproduction speeds having a maximum speed less than a fast reproduction speed selectable by a user, said main data including image data exhibiting a reference frame rate FR_r, said indication information including a set frame rate data (FR_s) ~~that is n times the reference frame rate~~ representing a reproduction speed for said main data, $FR_s=nFR_r$ (n is an integer or a fraction), said user-selectable ~~fast~~ reproduction speed being a fast speed produced by skipping selected frames of said main data as a function of FR_s, and said user-selectable reproduction speed being a slow speed produced by repeating selected frames of said main data as a function of FR_s, said maximum speed of said predetermined range being set for a predetermined content of said main data and not capable of being overridden by the user-selectable fast reproduction speed, thereby inhibiting said user from exceeding said maximum speed when reproducing the predetermined content of said main data, said main data including at least one of audio data and image data; and

combining said main data with associated information indicating said limitation information when determining that said indication information indicates said limitation information .

26-27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously Presented) The data processing method according to claim 25, wherein said limitation information includes information for limiting a display size of an image when reproducing said predetermined content of the main data.

29. (Previously Presented) The data processing method according to claim 25, wherein said limitation information includes information for maintaining quality of said main data when reproducing said predetermined content of the main data.

30. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium for storing a program for allowing a computer to perform a data processing method comprising the steps of:

determining whether or not indication information indicates limitation information for limiting reproduction speed of main data to a predetermined range of reproduction speeds having a maximum speed less than a fast reproduction speed selectable by a user, said main data including image data exhibiting a reference frame rate FR_r, said indication information including a set frame rate data (FR_s) ~~that is n times the reference frame rate~~ representing a reproduction speed for said main data, $FR_s=nFR_r$ (n is an integer or a fraction), said user-selectable ~~fast~~ reproduction speed being a fast speed produced by skipping selected frames of said main data as a function of FR_s, and said user-selectable reproduction speed being a slow speed produced by repeating selected frames of said main data as a function of FRs, said maximum speed of said predetermined range being set for a predetermined content of said main data and not capable of being overridden by the user-selectable fast reproduction speed, thereby inhibiting said user from exceeding said maximum speed when reproducing the predetermined content of said main data, said main data including at least one of audio data and image data; and

combining said main data with associated information indicating said limitation information when determining that said indication information indicates said limitation information.

31. (Currently Amended) A data processing apparatus comprising:

a determining device for determining whether or not indication information on main data including at least one of audio data and image data exhibiting a reference frame rate FR_r indicates limitation information for limiting reproduction speed of said main data to a predetermined range of reproduction speeds having a maximum speed less than a fast reproduction speed selectable by a user, said indication information including ~~a~~ set frame rate data (FR_s) ~~that is n times the reference frame rate~~ representing a reproduction speed for said main data, $FR_s=nFR_r$ (n is an integer or a fraction), said user-selectable ~~fast~~ reproduction speed being a fast speed produced by skipping selected frames of said main data as a function of FR_s, and said user-selectable reproduction speed being a slow speed produced by repeating selected frames of said main data as a function of FR_s, said maximum speed of said predetermined range being set for a predetermined content of said main data and not capable of being overridden by the user-selectable fast reproduction speed, thereby inhibiting said user from exceeding said maximum speed when reproducing the predetermined content of said main data; and

a correcting device for correcting indication information on said main data when said determining device determines that said indication information indicates said limitation information.

32-33. (Canceled)

34. (Previously Presented) The data processing apparatus according to claim 31, wherein said limitation information includes information for limiting a display size of image when reproducing said predetermined content of the main data.

35. (Previously Presented) The data processing apparatus according to claim 31, wherein said limitation information includes information for maintaining quality of said main data when

reproducing said predetermined content of the main data.

36. (Original) The data processing apparatus according to claim 31, wherein said indication information is provided from a user.

37. (Currently Amended) A data processing method comprising the steps of:

determining whether or not indication information on main data including at least one of audio data and image data exhibiting a reference frame rate FR_r indicates limitation information for limiting reproduction speed of said main data to a predetermined range of reproduction speeds having a maximum speed less than a fast reproduction speed selectable by a user, said indication information including ~~a~~ set frame rate data (FR_s) ~~that is n times the reference frame rate~~ representing a reproduction speed for said main data, $FR_s=nFR_r$ (n is an integer or a fraction), said user-selectable ~~fast~~ reproduction speed being a fast speed produced by skipping selected frames of said main data as a function of FR_s, and said user-selectable reproduction speed being a slow speed produced by repeating selected frames of said main data as a function of FR_s,said maximum speed of said predetermined range being set for a predetermined content of said main data and not capable of being overridden by the user-selectable fast reproduction speed, thereby inhibiting said user from exceeding said maximum speed when reproducing the predetermined content of said main data; and

correcting indication information on said main data when it is determined in said determining step that said indication information indicates said limitation information.

38-39. (Canceled)

40. (Previously Presented) The data processing method according to claim 37, wherein said

limitation information includes information for limiting a display size of image when reproducing the predetermined content of said main data.

41. (Previously Presented) The data processing method according to claim 37, wherein said limitation information includes information for maintaining quality of said main data when reproducing the predetermined content of said main data.

42. (Original) The data processing method according to claim 37, wherein said indication information is provided from a user.

43. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium for storing a program for allowing a computer to perform a data processing method comprising the steps of:

determining whether or not indication information on main data including at least one of audio data and image data exhibiting a reference frame rate FR_r includes limitation information for limiting reproduction speed of said main data to a predetermined range of reproduction speeds having a maximum speed less than a fast reproduction speed selectable by a user, said indication information including ~~a~~ set frame rate data (FR_s) ~~that is n times the reference frame rate~~ representing a reproduction speed for said main data, $FR_s=nFR_r$ (n is an integer or a fraction), said user-selectable ~~fast~~ reproduction speed being a fast speed produced by skipping selected frames of said main data as a function of FR_s, and said user-selectable reproduction speed being a slow speed produced by repeating selected frames of said main data as a function of FR_s,said maximum speed of said predetermined range being set for a predetermined content of said main data and not capable of being overridden by the user-selectable fast reproduction speed, thereby inhibiting said user from exceeding said maximum speed when reproducing the predetermined content of said main data; and

correcting indication information on said main data when it is determined in said determining step that said indication information indicates said limitation information.

44. (Currently Amended) A data processing apparatus comprising:

an editing device for editing main data including at least one of audio data and image data exhibiting a reference frame rate FR_r; and

a combining device for combining said main data edited in said editing device with associated information, said associated information including ~~a~~ set frame rate data (FR_s) ~~that is n times the reference frame rate~~ representing a reproduction speed for said main data, $FR_s=nFR_r$ (n is an integer or a fraction), ~~and~~ said associated information ~~indicating~~ selectively including limitation information for limiting the reproduction speed of said main data to a predetermined range of reproduction speeds having a maximum speed less than a fast reproduction speed selectable by a user, and said associated information further including recommended data representing a recommended reproduction speed at which a reproduction device is set to reproduce a predetermined content of said main data, said recommended reproduction speed being within said predetermined range, said user-selectable ~~fast~~ reproduction speed being a fast speed produced by skipping selected frames of said main data as a function of FR_s, and said user-selectable reproduction speed being a slow speed produced by repeating selected frames of said main data as a function of FR_s, said maximum speed of said predetermined range being set for ~~a~~ said predetermined content of said main data and not capable of being overridden by the user-selectable fast reproduction speed, thereby inhibiting said user from exceeding said maximum speed when reproducing the predetermined content of said main data.

45-46. (Canceled)

47. (Previously Presented) The data processing apparatus according to claim 44, wherein said limitation information includes information for limiting a display size of image when reproducing the predetermined content of said main data.

48. (Previously Presented) The data processing apparatus according to claim 44, wherein said limitation information includes information for maintaining quality of said main data when reproducing the predetermined content of said main data.

49. (Currently Amended) A data processing method comprising the steps of:

editing main data including at least one of audio data and image data exhibiting a reference frame rate FR_r; and

combining said main data edited in said editing step with associated information, said associated information including a set frame rate data (FR_s) ~~that is n times the reference frame rate~~ representing a reproduction speed for said main data, $FR_s=nFR_r$ (n is an integer or a fraction), ~~and~~ said associated information ~~indicating~~ selectively including limitation information for limiting the reproduction speed of said main data to a predetermined range of reproduction speeds having a maximum speed less than a fast reproduction speed selectable by a user, and said associated information further including recommended data representing a recommended reproduction speed at which a reproduction device is set to reproduce a predetermined content of said main data, said recommended reproduction speed being within said predetermined range, said user-selectable ~~fast~~ reproduction speed being a fast speed produced by skipping selected frames of said main data as a function of FR_s, and said user-selectable reproduction speed being a slow speed produced by repeating selected frames of said main data as a function of FR_s, said maximum speed of said

predetermined range being set for ~~a~~ said predetermined content of said main data and not capable of being overridden by the user-selectable fast reproduction speed, thereby inhibiting said user from exceeding said maximum speed when reproducing the predetermined content of said main data.

50-51. (Canceled)

52. (Previously Presented) The data processing method according to claim 49, wherein said limitation information includes information for limiting a display size of image when reproducing said predetermined content of the main data.

53. (Previously Presented) The data processing method according to claim 49, wherein said limitation information includes information for maintaining quality of said main data when reproducing said predetermined content of the main data.

54. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable recording medium storing a program for allowing a computer to perform a data processing method comprising the steps of:

editing main data including at least one of audio data and image data exhibiting a reference frame rate FR_r; and

combining said main data edited in said editing step with associated information, said associated information including ~~a~~ set frame rate data (FR_s) ~~that is n times the reference frame rate~~ representing a reproduction speed for said main data, $FR_s=nFR_r$ (n is an integer or a fraction), ~~and~~ said associated information ~~indicating~~ selectively including limitation information for limiting the reproduction speed of said main data to a predetermined range of reproduction speeds having a maximum speed less than a fast reproduction speed selectable by a user, and said associated

information further including recommended data representing a recommended reproduction speed at which a reproduction device is set to reproduce a predetermined content of said main data, said recommended reproduction speed being within said predetermined range, said user-selectable ~~fast~~ reproduction speed being a fast speed produced by skipping selected frames of said main data as a function of FR_s, and said user-selectable reproduction speed being a slow speed produced by repeating selected frames of said main data as a function of FR_s, said maximum speed of said predetermined range being set for ~~a~~ said predetermined content of said main data and not capable of being overridden by the user-selectable fast reproduction speed, thereby inhibiting said user from exceeding said maximum speed when reproducing the predetermined content of said main data.

55. (Currently Amended) A data processing apparatus comprising:

a determining device for determining whether or not main data including at least one of audio data and image data exhibiting a reference frame rate FR_r is combined with associated information, said associated information including ~~a~~ set frame rate data (FR_s) ~~that is n times the reference frame rate~~ representing a reproduction speed for said main data, $FR_s=nFR_r$ (n is an integer or a fraction), ~~and~~ said associated information ~~indicating~~ selectively including limitation information for limiting the reproduction speed of said main data to a predetermined range of reproduction speeds having a maximum speed less than a maximum ~~fast~~ reproduction speed selectable by a user, and said associated information further including recommended data representing a recommended reproduction speed at which a reproduction device is set to reproduce a predetermined content of said main data, said recommended reproduction speed being within said predetermined range; and

a reproducing device for selectively reproducing said predetermined content of said main data at the reproduction speed represented by said recommend data, at a fast reproduction speed that is produced by skipping selected frames of said main data as a function of FR_s, said fast reproduction

speed being within said predetermined range based on said limitation information, and at a slow reproduction speed that is produced by repeating selected frames of said main data as a function of FR_{ss}, the maximum reproduction speed at which said main data is reproduced not capable of being overridden by the user-selectable fast reproduction speed, thereby inhibiting said reproducing device from exceeding said maximum reproduction speed when reproducing said predetermined content, when said determining device determines that said main data is combined with said associated information.

56-57. (Canceled)

58. (Previously Presented) The data processing apparatus according to claim 55, wherein said limitation information includes information for limiting a display size of image when reproducing the main data; and wherein said reproducing device reproduces the predetermined content of said main data at the display size based on said limitation information.

59. (Previously Presented) The data processing apparatus according to claim 55, wherein said limitation information includes information for maintaining quality of said main data when reproducing the predetermined content of said main data; and wherein said reproducing device reproduces the predetermined content of said main data at the quality based on said limitation information.

60. (Previously Presented) The data processing apparatus according to claim 55, wherein said reproducing device reproduces said main data according to a condition set beforehand when said main data is not combined with said associated information.

61. (Original) The data processing apparatus according to claim 55 further comprising an adjusting device for adjusting a frame rate of said main data.

62. (Previously Presented) The data processing apparatus according to claim 61, wherein said adjusting device adjusts a frame rate of said main data when reproducing the predetermined content of said main data to a reproduction speed of said audio data and image data indicated by said associated information.

63. (Canceled)

64. (Currently Amended) The data processing apparatus according to claim 61, ~~wherein said associated information indicates a recommended reproduction speed; and~~ wherein said adjusting device adjusts a frame rate of said main data, when reproducing the predetermined content of said main data, to the recommended reproduction speed of said audio data and image data indicated by said associated information.

65. (Currently Amended) A data processing method comprising the steps of:

determining whether or not main data including at least one of audio data and image data exhibiting a reference frame rate FR_r is combined with associated information, said associated information including ~~a~~ set frame rate data (FR_s) ~~that is n times the reference frame rate~~ representing a reproduction speed for said main data, $FR_s=nFR_r$ (n is an integer or a fraction), ~~and~~ said associated information ~~indicating~~ selectively including limitation information for limiting the reproduction speed of said main data to a predetermined range of reproduction speeds having a maximum speed

less than a maximum ~~fast~~ reproduction speed selectable by a user, and said associated information further including recommended data representing a recommended reproduction speed at which a reproduction device is set to reproduce a predetermined content of said main data, said recommended reproduction speed being within said predetermined range; and

selectively reproducing said predetermined content of said main data at the reproduction speed represented by said recommend data, at a fast reproduction speed that is produced by skipping selected frames of said main data as a function of FR_s said fast reproduction speed being within said predetermined range based on said limitation information, and at a slow reproduction speed that is produced by repeating selected frames of said main data as a function of FR_{ss} the maximum reproduction speed at which said main data is reproduced not capable of being overridden by the user-selectable fast reproduction speed, thereby inhibiting said reproducing device from exceeding said maximum reproduction speed when reproducing said predetermined content, when determining that said main data is combined with said associated information in said determining step.

66-67. (Canceled)

68. (Previously Presented) The data processing method according to claim 65, wherein said limitation information includes information for limiting a display size of image when reproducing the main data; and wherein the predetermined content of said main data is reproduced at the display size based on said limitation information.

69. (Previously Presented) The data processing method according to claim 65, wherein said limitation information includes information for maintaining quality of said main data when reproducing the main data; and wherein the predetermined content of said main data is reproduced at

the quality based on said limitation information.

70. (Previously Presented) The data processing method according to claim 65, wherein, in said reproducing step, said main data is reproduced according to a condition set beforehand when said main data is not combined with said associated information.

71. (Original) The data processing method according to claim 65 further comprising the step of adjusting a frame rate of said main data.

72. (Previously Presented) The data processing method according to claim 71, wherein, in said adjusting step, a frame rate of said main data when reproducing the predetermined content of said main data is adjusted to a reproduction speed of said audio data and image data indicated by said limitation information.

73. (Canceled)

74. (Currently Amended) The data processing method according to claim 71, ~~wherein said associated information indicates a recommended reproduction speed; and~~ wherein, in said adjusting step, the frame rate of said main data when reproducing the predetermined content of said main data is adjusted to the reproduction speed of said audio data and image data indicated by said associated information.

75. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium for storing program for allowing a computer to perform a data processing method, comprising the steps of:

determining whether or not main data including at least one of audio data and image data exhibiting a reference frame rate FR_r is combined with associated information, said associated information including ~~a~~ set frame rate data (FR_s) ~~that is n times the reference frame rate~~ representing a reproduction speed for said main data, $FR_s=nFR_r$ (n is an integer or a fraction), ~~and~~ said associated information ~~indicating~~ selectively including limitation information for limiting the reproduction speed of said main data to a predetermined range of reproduction speeds having a maximum speed less than a maximum ~~fast~~ reproduction speed selectable by a user, and said associated information further including recommended data representing a recommended reproduction speed at which a reproduction device is set to reproduce a predetermined content of said main data, said recommended reproduction speed being within said predetermined range; and

selectively reproducing said predetermined content of said main data at the reproduction speed represented by said recommend data, at a fast reproduction speed that is produced by skipping selected frames of said main data as a function of FR_s said fast reproduction speed being within said predetermined range based on said limitation information, and at a slow reproduction speed that is produced by repeating selected frames of said main data as a function of FR_s, the maximum reproduction speed at which said main data is reproduced not capable of being overridden by the user-selectable fast reproduction speed, thereby inhibiting said reproducing device from exceeding said maximum reproduction speed when reproducing said predetermined content, when determining that said main data is combined with said associated information in said determining step.

76-80. (Canceled)